

GAME OF THRONES

STUDY GUIDE

Matthew 4:1-11 | Matthew 3:13-17

Observation Questions

1. In Matthew 4, what specific temptations did Jesus face in the wilderness, and how did he respond to each one?
2. According to the sermon, what are some modern “thrones” people chase after, and what do they hope to gain by sitting on them? [[06:35]]
3. Before Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, what significant event happened in Matthew 3, and what did the voice from heaven say? [[25:24]]
4. What process did Jesus model for us in his journey from baptism to temptation, as described in the sermon? [[29:50]]

Interpretation Questions

1. Why do you think the enemy targeted Jesus’ identity and relationship with the Father during the temptations? How does this relate to the way we are tempted today? [[25:24]]
2. The sermon says, “The secret to winning in the kingdom of heaven is learning how to love losing.” What does it mean to “lose” in this context, and why is it necessary for following Jesus? [[07:13]]
3. How does the affirmation Jesus received at his baptism prepare him for the challenges in the wilderness? What does this suggest about the importance of knowing our identity in Christ? [[25:24]]
4. The sermon describes repentance as “realignment” rather than just feeling guilty. How does this understanding of repentance change the way someone might approach their struggles or failures? [[31:49]]

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Application Questions

1. The sermon asks, “What throne am I chasing?” Take a moment to honestly identify one area in your life where you are seeking control, comfort, or affirmation. How is this pursuit affecting your relationship with God and others? [\[\[08:34\]\]](#)
2. Jesus responded to temptation by quoting Scripture. What is one practical way you can anchor yourself in God’s Word this week when you face challenges or doubts? [\[\[13:45\]\]](#)
3. The process Jesus modeled was belief, repentance, baptism, and submission. Which of these steps do you find most challenging right now, and why? What would it look like to take a next step in that area? [\[\[29:50\]\]](#)
4. The sermon says, “It’s easy to settle for a version of faith that looks good on the outside... while still holding tightly to control over our own lives.” In what ways have you experienced or observed “surface faith”? What would it look like to move from surface faith to daily surrender? [\[\[11:09\]\]](#)
5. Repentance is described as “realigning our lives with God’s will.” Is there a specific area where you sense God inviting you to realign? What is one step you can take this week to let your beliefs shape your actions, rather than your feelings? [\[\[31:49\]\]](#)
6. Baptism is called a “declaration of new identity, not a reward for good behavior.” If you have been baptized, how does this truth encourage you? If you haven’t, what questions or hesitations do you have about taking this step? [\[\[33:37\]\]](#)
7. The sermon emphasizes living from the affirmation of the Father rather than striving for approval. What is one way you can remind yourself of your identity as God’s beloved child when you feel pressure to prove yourself? [\[\[36:43\]\]](#)